

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, July 30, 2008

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note that the minutes are a brief summary
and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd

Attendance recorded:

- Absent Excused: Barry Perrou, Hayward McNeill, Victoria Sofro, and Helen Wolff
- Absent: Phillip Chen

III. Approval of the Minutes – Jerry Lubin

The April 24 meeting minutes were approved.

IV. Chair and Vice Chair Reports

Jerry Lubin, Chair – Reported on the following:

IT Plan and CSS Implementation Report Public Hearing – Commissioner Lubin gave an overview of the public hearing activities that takes place after today's Commission meeting from 1-4 pm.

Larry Gasco, Vice Chair – Reflected on Dr. Southard's proposal to thrust Commissioners into MHSA Oversight and Accountability roles. A discussion took place about how Commissioners would participate in this function.

V. Commissioner/Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Frank Baron – Reported on the following

- Announced NAMI Walks Los Angeles County event scheduled October 4, 2008 from 9 am at the 3rd Street Promenade in Santa Monica.
- Spoke to a law enforcement audience that included LAPD and Sheriff. The officers proposed a very intense question and answer session on "do mentally ill people belong incarcerated." The information law enforcement receives on this issue appears to be closed or narrow. It was suggested

that Commissioners do outreach to broaden law enforcement perspective on the mental health population. Commissioner Baron hoped the answers he gave to the officers clarified some misunderstandings of mental illness but still the group needs more intervention to better understand this population. The discussion concluded to formulate a committee to address the issue. Commissioners Rabens, Gilberg, Askins, Baron, Wolff and DMH staff Linda Boyd were recommended to participate on the committee.

Commissioner Ilean Rabens – The Arts SMART was submitted for NACo awards. The program provides performing artists in the juvenile justice camps. The program plans to submit an application for the next Quality and Productivity Grant.

Commissioner George Caballero – Attended an Older Adults meeting with Cynthia Jackson, Director of Community and Senior Services.

Commissioner Lana Brody – The movie “The Soloist,” emphasizes mental illness, music, and homelessness. It is a story how a friendship developed between Nathaniel Ayers, a classically trained and gifted musician living on Skid Row and Steve Lopez, LA Times Columnist influenced both their lives. The movie will debut sometime in the fall. Commissioner Brody suggested inviting Mr. Steve Lopez and the actor who portrays Nathaniel Ayers to speak at the Commission 2009 awards luncheon in May 2009.

Commissioner Delores Huffman – Discussed an outreach experience she initiated similar to how Steve Lopez approached Nathaniel Ayers. She also reported the Housing Project continues to review proposals and hopefully the process will be finalized in September 2008.

Commissioner Carlos Sosa – Plans to attend the WET meeting on behalf of the Commission so that they continue to engage enhancement in workforce training and education services.

VI. Director’s Report

MHSA Update –

Following the Commission meeting a public hearing from 1-4 pm will take place. The Information Technology plan will be presented and the Community Services and Support implementation report will be updated to give community members an opportunity to comment on the plans.

Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal – briefly discussed the following issues:

- State is hopeful that a budget will be passed before September when elections start. Legislature has given up on the idea of trying to “borrow or take funds from” MHSA as they have gotten the message loud and clear that mental health advocates will take immediate action against the State if MHSA funds are disturbed.

Meanwhile, the following priority bills remain “in suspense:”

- SB 292 – AB 3632 services to be reimbursed to county mental health departments
- AB 1780 – EPSDT process requires State DMH to make a number of administrative improvements related to transfer of funding to pay claims.
- AB 3083 – In support of linking veterans to mental health and other services.
- SB 1349 – Requires State Controller to reimburse counties for Medi-Cal specialty mental health services within 90 days after receipt of a claim.
- AB 1951 – State DMH is requesting authority to allow counties to contract with nongovernmental providers in the development of recovery oriented community facilities consistent with MHSA.

VII. Meeting Adjourned – Public Hearing to Follow

VIII. Next Meeting Information – NOTE August meeting is dark

The Commission will not meet in August. The next scheduled meeting will be:

Thursday, September 25, 2008
12 – 2:30 pm
Hahn Hall of Administration – Room 739
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ch/ch